

Water Funding Task Force

Nebraska's water resources are finite and must be wisely managed to ensure their continued availability for beneficial use.

Our mission is to first create weighting criteria to prioritize water resources programs, projects and activities (PPAs) in need of funding to meet the long-term, statewide goals of water sustainability, increased water-use productivity, and maximize the beneficial use of Nebraska's water resources and second to make recommendations for a strategic plan for funding the PPAs.

Goals of the Water Funding Task Force

1. Create PPA prioritization criteria based on the following:
 - The extent to which the PPA provides increased water productivity and otherwise maximizes the beneficial use of Nebraska's water resources
 - The extent to which the PPA assists the state in meeting its obligations under interstate compacts or decrees or other formal contracts or agreements
 - The extent to which the PPA promotes objectives described in the Annual Report and Plan of Work for the Nebraska State Water Planning and Review Process issued by DNR
 - The extent to which the PPA has been approved for funding through an established state program
 - The cost effectiveness of the PPA in meeting the state's water management goals
 - The extent to which the PPA contributes to the state's ability to leverage other funding sources
 - The extent to which the PPA contributes to multiple water supply management goals of
 - Flood control
 - Agricultural use
 - Recreational benefits
 - Wildlife habitat
 - Conservation of water resources
 - Preservation of water resources
2. Make recommendations for a strategic plan which prioritized PPAs in need of funding. The recommendations shall give equal consideration to and be classified into the following categories:
 - Research, data, and modeling needed to assist the state in meeting its water management goals
 - Rehabilitation or restoration of water supply infrastructure, new water supply infrastructure, or water supply infrastructure maintenance
 - Conjunctive management, storage and integrated management of groundwater and surface water
 - Compliance with interstate compacts or agreements or other formal state contracts
3. Make recommendations for legislation on a permanent structure and process through which the PPAs will be provided funding including:
 - A permanent governing body
 - An application process
 - A statewide project distribution mechanism
 - A timeframe for funding allocations based on the list of PPAs